

HO-26

## St. John's Episcopal Church

### **Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site ([mht.maryland.gov](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

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***Last Updated: 05-26-2017***

HO-26

St. John's Episcopal Church

9140 Frederick Road

Private

Description:

St. John's Episcopal Church is set back from the road about 500 feet, in line with the stone gateway along the roadside, and faces south toward the road. Also on the property are a stone dwelling (Clark House) now used as school offices, a stone parish house and educational building. The church is a one-story, five-bay by nine-bay rubble stone structure with a gable roof that is covered with slate and has a north-south ridge. The stonework changes on the three northern bays and the slate changes on the four northern bays. On the south elevation the west bay is a projecting belfry. The center bay has a round-arched opening with new doors and a new stained glass transom. Above the door is a round-arched tripartite window and the gable end has a lunette with stained glass. The east bay is a stone tower and spire. On the interior of the nave each bay is divided by a wooden truss that sits on a scrolled bracket on the wall about two-thirds of the distance above the window sills. An arch brace sits on the bracket and meets the principal rafter in the truss, continues in a half circle to the top, where it meets a high collar beam, and continues around to the bracket on the opposite wall. There is a king post or king strut on top of the collar beam. The ceiling is covered with wood boards that hide the common rafters. The east and west windows are all of figural glass. At the south end is a gallery containing the organ and pipes. The pews are arranged in two columns, with an aisle down the center and one along each side wall.

Significance:

St. John's Episcopal Church was established as a chapel of ease in Queen Caroline Parish in 1821 and the first building was completed and consecrated two years later. The first mention of the intention to construct a new church edifice occurs in the August 1859 minutes of the vestry, which approved the concept "according to the plans and specifications furnished by N. G. Starkweather." For St. John's, Starkweather designed a Romanesque parish church that no longer looked to the Ecclesiological movement that had influenced Anglican and Episcopal Church architecture in the 1840s and 1850s. The old church was demolished and the new building constructed, at least in part, on the foundation of the former structure. Finishing details of the church were being addressed in October 1860, and the church was consecrated in late November. The existing belfry on St. John's must have been built in 1886, after the vestry approved Miss Maria Dorsey's proposal for a bell at the church. Also in 1886 Mrs. Thomas Gaither offered to give a new gateway along the turnpike, at the entrance to the church. A new rectory was built in 1948, and Baltimore architect T. Worth Jamison, Jr. was hired to design the stone building. Jamison & Marks were hired to design the parish house, which was constructed in 1951. Studies to enlarge the church were undertaken in 1968 by the Baltimore architectural firm of Cochran, Stevenson and Donkervoet. The north wall was taken down and the building extended 43 feet. The church was renovated at this time, including enlarging the vestibule and the gallery above by doubling their depth. This work was completed in 1974.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-26

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic St. John's Episcopal Church

other \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street and number 9140 Frederick Road     not for publication

city, town Ellicott City X vicinity

county Howard

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name St. John's Episcopal Church Vestry

street and number 9120 Frederick Road telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city, town Ellicott City state MD zip code 21042

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse liber 4732 folio 153

city, town Ellicott City tax map 24 tax parcel 535 tax ID number \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District  
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
 Recorded by HABS/HAER  
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
				Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b> <u>1</u>	

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## 7. Description

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### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

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Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

#### Summary:

St. John's Episcopal Church is set back from the road about 500 feet, in line with the stone gateway along the roadside, and faces south toward the road. Also on the property are a stone dwelling (Clark House) now used as school offices, a stone parish house and educational building. The church is a one-story, five-bay by nine-bay rubble stone structure with a gable roof that is covered with slate and has a north-south ridge. The stonework changes on the three northern bays and the slate changes on the four northern bays. On the south elevation the west bay is a projecting belfry. The center bay has a round-arched opening with new doors and a new stained glass transom. Above the door is a round-arched tripartite window and the gable end has a lunette with stained glass. The east bay is a stone tower and spire. On the interior of the nave each bay is divided by a wooden truss that sits on a scrolled bracket on the wall about two-thirds of the distance above the window sills. An arch brace sits on the bracket and meets the principal rafter in the truss, continues in a half circle to the top, where it meets a high collar beam, and continues around to the bracket on the opposite wall. There is a king post or king strut on top of the collar beam. The ceiling is covered with wood boards that hide the common rafters. The east and west windows are all of figural glass. At the south end is a gallery containing the organ and pipes. The pews are arranged in two columns, with an aisle down the center and one along each side wall.

#### Description:

St. John's Episcopal Church is located at 9140 Frederick Road, on the north side of the road, about 1 ¼ miles west of Ellicott City in northeastern Howard County, Maryland. The church is set back from the road about 500 feet, in line with the stone gateway along the roadside, and faces south toward the road. Also on the property are a stone dwelling (Clark House) now used as school offices, a stone parish house and educational building that has two later buildings appended to it, one to the west and one to the north, a modern educational building added to the north addition, a modern freestanding church office building to the east of this agglomeration, a small chapel (Alda's Chapel) southwest of the church, and a storage building at the north end of the property. At the southwest corner of the property is "Rose Hill," a foursquare that was purchased by the church. Only the historic structures are described.

#### Church, exterior

The church is a one-story, five-bay by nine-bay rubble stone structure with a gable roof that is covered with slate and has a north-south ridge. The stone is granite with drill holes, and there is a stone water table. The stonework changes on the three northern bays and the slate changes on the four northern bays. There is a one-story hip-roofed addition on the north, with a granite base and stuccoed walls. It is five bays by two bays, has a bracket cornice, and has fake slate on the roof.

On the south elevation the west bay is a projecting belfry with a cross of inset stone in the tower. There are three courses of corbelled stone at the top of the tower, with a wood belfry above that has chamfered

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## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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posts and arch braces that are mortised and tenoned and pegged. Above this on each side of the belfry is a frieze of three panels with pierced trefoils, and above this a row of quarter-round brackets and an ogee cornice. The belfry has a hip roof that is concave at the base, and has slate. There is a copper finial at the peak. The center bay has a round-arched opening with new doors and a new stained glass transom. The opening has a column on either side that has an octagonal base, but no capital; instead, the column continues as a roll moulding on the intrados of the arch. There is a label mould with pyramidal stops. The door is flanked on each side by a narrow, round-arched stained glass sash with a label mould with pyramidal stops. Above the door is a round-arched tripartite window that has a label mould with ogee stops. The center sash is both wider and taller. All three sash have stained glass, and the bottoms of the sash are rounded, to follow the arch of the doorway below. The gable end has a lunette with stained glass. The gable eaves have brackets with ogee stops at the bottom and three pyramidal bosses above the stops, below the scroll of the bracket. At the ridge is the copper base for a cross that was removed for restoration. The east bay is a stone tower and spire with a water table and a belt course. There is a round-arched stained glass window with a label mould that ends at the belt course, and there are corbelled stones below the belt course. Above the window is a shield cut into the granite. The top of the tower has a bold cornice with three corbelled courses; there is a quarter-round with a cavetto above and a fillet below. Each side of the spire has a lucarne with round-arched, louvered opening and label mould. A trefoil is set into the stone of the spire, with a stone finial at the top of the spire.

The west elevation has the belfry in the south bay, with an inset cross in the stone. There is a narrow round-arched stained glass window set hard against the belfry, just to the north, with an exterior stone chimney just north of it. The eight bays to the north of the chimney each have a wider round-arched stained glass window with figural glass. They have a projecting sill with a pronounced weather to it, and a flush lintel. There are paired scroll brackets in the cornice, with ogee stops. There are two pair of brackets between each pair of windows and they are set several inches from the wall, hanging from the sloped eave. There is an interior stone chimney at the north end, west of the ridge.

On the east elevation the south bay is the tower, which matches the south elevation, including the stone carved shield. The eight bays to the north match the west elevation, but there are no chimneys. The north elevation of the tower has a round-arched doorway at ground level that has been filled with stone, and has the belt course, but no window or shield.

### Church, interior

There is a vestibule that is one bay deep, with three doors on the north leading into the nave. The walls are plaster scored to imitate ashlar, above V-groove half wainscot that has an applied, sawn wood fascia cut with round arches, in imitation of a corbel table. The center doorway is larger and is semi-circular arched, with paired doors that each has a square panel at the bottom, a round-arched panel in the center, and a roughly triangular panel at the top, all with bolection mouldings. In the southeast corner is a

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segmentally-arched doorway that has a door of five belection-moulded panels. The bottom two panels are square, the middle two are round-arched at the top, and the top center panel is roughly triangular. Above the door is a sign with "The Mackubin Tower", and it leads to a circular stair up to the gallery.

On the interior of the nave there is no clear demarcation between the original south bays and the added north bays. The walls are plastered above V-groove half wainscot, with semi-circular arched stained glass windows in the bays and each bay divided by a wooden truss that sits on a scrolled bracket on the wall about two-thirds of the distance above the window sills. An arch brace sits on the bracket and meets the principal rafter in the truss, continues in a half circle to the top, where it meets a high collar beam, and continues around to the bracket on the opposite wall. There is a king post or king strut on top of the collar beam. There are two purlins on each side of the roof, and they appear to be butt purlins. The ceiling is covered with wood boards that hide the common rafters. The east and west windows are all of figural glass. At the south end is a gallery containing the organ and pipes, with a round-arched window in the center and a rose window above. The north end of the nave is completely new.

The pews are arranged in two columns, with an aisle down the center and one along each side wall. The pews appear to be pine, and the ends are chamfered on the front and back sides, with scrolls on the top. The altar rail is apparently re-used, consisting of cast iron panels that have cinquefoils in the corners with quatrefoils between them. In the center is a cross with the letters "IHS." The panels are set between wooden stiles that have a cross cut out of the center, and there is a heavy moulded wooden railing across the top. The corners of the altar rail are posts with rounded corners, a recessed rosette, and a large, foliate finial on top. The pulpit has a cross applied to the front, flanked by a tall, narrow, round-arched panel on each side. The corners are chamfered and the top is supported by scroll brackets. The lectern is a bronze eagle set on a wood stand that has foliate scroll bracket feet, four short columns above the feet, and a large Gothic capital with acanthus leaf carving below the eagle.

### **Gateway**

The gateway is located along Frederick Road, due south of the church, and consists of two taller granite piers in the center, flanked to the outside by low curving granite walls that end with shorter piers. The piers are of squared, coursed rubble that approximates ashlar, and they and the walls are topped with ashlar coping stones. On the inner side of the inner piers are simple iron gates of round vertical bars topped with spear points.

### **Rectory**

The Rectory (Clark House) is located about 200 feet southeast of the church and is a two-story, three-bay by three-bay stone veneer structure with a two-story, one-bay by two-bay stone veneer wing on the south end. Both portions of the house have a gable roof with a north-south ridge, and slate roofing. There is an interior stone chimney on the ridge, at the south end of the main block. The west elevation

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of the main block has a door in the south bay of the first story that has six panels and a four-light transom. It has fluted pilasters and a full cornice, in wood. The other two bays have a six-over-nine sash with blinds. The second story has three six-over-six sash with blinds. The wing has an eight-over-twelve sash on the first story and an eight-over-eight sash on the second. The north elevation has a door in the east bay, with a shed roof porch. The center bay has a six-over-six sash and the west bay a six-over-nine sash. The second story has a six-over-six sash in the end bays and no opening in the center. The gable end has two six-over-six sash.

The ground slopes down to the north and east, creating an exposed basement on the east. The north bay of the east elevation has a garage door in the basement. There is a one-story shed-roofed wing in the center bay that has a small six-light sash in the basement and a tripartite sash on the first story. The south bay has a door and a shed-roofed porch. The second story has a six-over-six sash in the end bays and no opening in the center bay. The south elevation of the south wing has a bay window in the center of the first story. It is rectangular, with stone veneer at the base, an eight-over-twelve sash flanked by a six-over-six sash on each side, and a six-over-six sash on the east and west sides of the bay. The bay window has a shed roof. The second story has two eight-over-eight sash and the gable end has a six-over-six sash. The wing is slightly reduced in height and depth with respect to the main block.

### **Parish House and Educational Building**

The Parish House and Educational Building is located about 75 feet southeast of the house and is a one-story, cruciform, stone veneered building with a raised basement and a gable roof that has slate and a north-south ridge. The transepts have lower gable roofs with east-west ridges. The southern-most bay is narrower than the rest of the building, and is built to get two stories into the same height. The ground slopes down to the north, exposing more of the basement at that end.

The south elevation has center double doors of wood with a narrow light in each door, and decorative faux strap hinges. There is a transom of leaded diamond lights, and a surround of limestone that is beveled on the inner face. There are three stone steps between cheek walls in front of the door, and the door is flanked by a window on each side that has leaded diamond lights. Above the door are three narrow windows in the gable end with leaded diamond lights, a cross above them, and a copper rooster weathervane on the ridge. At the lower west corner of the building is a date stone with "1951."

The east elevation of the south bay has flush limestone walling in the center that is two stories high and has three windows with leaded diamond lights on each story; the upper story windows are segmentally arched. There are three bays south of the transept, each with a twelve-over-twelve double hung sash, and three bays in the east end of the transept, with eight-over-twelve double hung sash. The basement here has three six-over-six double hung sash. The north and south elevations of the east transept each have an eight-over-twelve double hung sash. To the north of the transept the east elevation has a flush

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door at grade, and the door has a single small light in it. There is an interior stone chimney at the north end, centered on the gable ridge.

The west elevation of the south bay is identical to the east elevation, as are the three bays to the north of it. The south elevation of the west transept has an eight-over-twelve double hung sash. There are modern additions to the west end of the transept and everything to the north of it, covering those elevations, as well as the entire north elevation.

### **“Rose Hill”**

This is a foursquare dwelling that was historically not part of the property but was acquired by the church in 1960. It is located at the southwest corner of the expanded property. It is a 2 ½-story, three-bay by three-bay frame structure with a hipped roof that has a gabled dormer on all four sides. The south elevation has a center doorway with a one-story, one-bay porch that has a hipped roof. There is a one-story addition across the north elevation.

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## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

**Specific dates** 1821, 1823 **Architect/Builder** N. G. Starkweather, T. Worth Jamison

**Construction dates** 1859-60, 1886, 1948, 1951

Evaluation for:

National Register  Maryland Register  not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### Summary:

St. John's Episcopal Church was established as a chapel of ease in Queen Caroline Parish in 1821 and the first building was completed and consecrated two years later. The first mention of the intention to construct a new church edifice occurs in the August 1859 minutes of the vestry, which approved the concept "according to the plans and specifications furnished by N. G. Starkweather." For St. John's, Starkweather designed a Romanesque parish church that no longer looked to the Ecclesiological movement that had influenced Anglican and Episcopal Church architecture in the 1840s and 1850s. The old church was demolished and the new building constructed, at least in part, on the foundation of the former structure. Finishing details of the church were being addressed in October 1860, and the church was consecrated in late November. The existing belfry on St. John's must have been built in 1886, after the vestry approved Miss Maria Dorsey's proposal for a bell at the church. Also in 1886 Mrs. Thomas Gaither offered to give a new gateway along the turnpike, at the entrance to the church. a new rectory was built in 1948, and Baltimore architect T. Worth Jamison, Jr. was hired to design the stone building. Jamison & Marks were hired to design the parish house, which was constructed in 1951. Studies to enlarge the church were undertaken in 1968 by the Baltimore architectural firm of Cochran, Stevenson and Donkervoet. The north wall was taken down and the building extended 43 feet. The church was renovated at this time, including enlarging the vestibule and the gallery above by doubling their depth. This work was completed in 1974.

### Significance:

St. John's Episcopal Church was established as a chapel of ease in Queen Caroline Parish in 1821 following a meeting of interested local landowners at the home of Charles W. Dorsey, and the first building was completed and consecrated two years later. That building has been described by St. John's Church historian Elva Hewett as built of "stone and rough cast, measuring thirty-eight by thirty-six feet. There were four large columns and a portico in front [on the north elevation]. The building was painted white, becoming known locally as 'the white church.' It accommodated about two hundred people with a gallery for servants." It was built on just over one acre deeded to the congregation in 1825 by Caleb

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Dorsey of Thomas and his wife, Elizabeth. Even before the construction was completed, the General Assembly, which incorporated the church, made St. John's an independent church. The Episcopal Diocese established the congregation as a separate church in 1830. A parsonage was built in 1841 (this building is believed to be the house at 3511 St. John's Lane, HO-142.)<sup>1</sup>

The first mention of plans to construct a new church edifice occurs in the August 1859 minutes of the vestry, when a building committee consisting of Thomas Watkins Ligon, James Mackubin, and Anthony M. Johnson was appointed ". . . to receive proposals for the erection of a new church on the site of the present St. John's Church edifice, according to the plans and specifications furnished by N. G. Starkweather." At the same time the vestry "Resolved that the contract for the new building executed on the 24<sup>th</sup> August 1859 between N. G. Starkweather and T. W. Ligon is hereby ratified and confirmed." Clearly there had been much activity on the part of the vestry toward having a new church designed prior to August 1859, especially if specifications for the work were already written, and Ligon was almost certainly the primary force behind the movement. Both of Ligon's wives were the daughters of Charles W. Dorsey, as was the first wife of James Mackubin, and the wife of Anthony Johnson was a niece of Dorsey (daughter of his brother, Reuben Meriweather Dorsey). Ligon had been the Governor of Maryland from 1854 to 1858, and with the end of his term he undoubtedly had much time on his hands. During his governorship he had a country house, "Chatham," constructed just west of St. John's, and he had hired Starkweather to design it. Norris Starkweather had come from Philadelphia and was working in Baltimore on the design of the First Presbyterian Church as early as 1854. He designed three other country houses for members of the Dorsey family in Howard County, though it is not known which commission was the first. For St. John's, Starkweather designed a Romanesque parish church that no longer looked to the Ecclesiological movement that had influenced Anglican and Episcopal Church architecture in the 1840s and 1850s.<sup>2</sup>

The old church was demolished and the new building constructed, at least in part, on the foundation of the former structure. St. Peter's Church in Ellicott City donated the use of their building to St. John's for worship until the new structure was ready for use. No building project goes off without a hitch, and throughout September the vestry had been entertaining changes to the tower, though the exact nature of these changes, whether decorative or structural, is not revealed in the minutes. The vestry "Resolved that no alterations be made in the erection of the Tower to the Church but that the original plan be adhered to according to the specifications in the Contract." Issues with the tower would continue to plague the congregation in the future. The cornerstone of the church was laid in October, 1859, and by

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<sup>1</sup> Elva Trueblood Hewett, "Chapel of Ease: History of St. John's Episcopal Church, Ellicott City, Maryland: 1821-2005." (Reprint, 2005), p. 3.

<sup>2</sup> St. John's Episcopal Church, Vestry Minutes, Maryland State Archives, M 521, p. 42. Mills Lane, *Architecture of the Old South: Maryland* (New York: Abbeville Press, 1991), p. 203.

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the following January it was clear that the building could not be completed by the time originally stipulated; the completion date was extended to the first of October. This was followed by considerations of changes to the layout of the church, but in February 1860 the vestry determined “. . . that there should be no alteration in the Aisles, Pews or Vestibule of the new church, but that the original plan & contract be strictly adhered to.” One change was approved, upon the motion of T. W. Ligon, “. . . that the ceiling of the new church be boarded instead of Plastered as called for by the specifications . . . .” The pulpit was ordered at this time. Though there is no record of it in the vestry minutes, renovations to the church in the early 1970s uncovered drawings of the pulpit, signed by James Gaw and dated 1860.<sup>3</sup>

The issue of the interior plan and number of aisles would not go away, however. In January 1860 it was reported: “in reply to a letter of N. G. Starkweather in reference to the number & width of the aisles of the church, the vestry by vote decided in favor of three the middle aisle to be 6 feet wide and the side aisles to be three.” This necessitated alterations to the contract, but the matter was still not completely resolved, despite the fact that the church was well under way. The following month the vestry reconsidered and decided not to make any changes, resolving that “. . . the original plan & contract be strictly adhered to.” In August 1860 Ligon had another motion passed, “. . . that the plan of the church be changed from two to three aisles, the middle aisle to be five feet wide, and the side or wall aisles to be 2 feet 6 inches wide.” Ligon then moved “. . . that the Pews shall be so arranged that those entered from the middle aisle shall be nine feet long and those from the side aisles five feet.” This likely followed from the first change, and was also passed. Starkweather was to be paid \$80 for the changes. The implications of the vestry minutes are that Starkweather was acting both as architect and builder of the church.<sup>4</sup>

At the same time, the vestry addressed changes to the location of the organ, which must have been planned to be put somewhere on the ground level. The minutes note: “Mr. Mackubin moved that the space now allotted in the church for the organ & choir be left as [now?] constructed and remain open. William H. G. Dorsey, the owner of “Wilton,” one of the Starkwether-designed houses, moved as an amendment to this proposition, that the organ & choir be located in the gallery . . . .” The new plan was adopted. The vestry then turned to heating the building. “Mr. Mackubin moved that Mr. Starkweather [sic] be requested to procure & set up in the church, a Furnace of superior quality and of sufficient size to thoroughly warm the church, having four registers, one for each of the aisles, and one for the vestry room, and when said furnace shall be completely fixed to the satisfaction of the vestry, then Mr.

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<sup>3</sup> Vestry Minutes, p. 43. *Baltimore Sun*, 15 October 1859, p. 1, col. 4. Vestry Minutes, pp. 45- 46. Hewett, “Chapel of Ease,” p. 16.

<sup>4</sup> Vestry Minutes, pp. 45-47.

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Starkweather shall be paid [illegible] for the sum of two hundred & fifty dollars. The motion was adopted, Mr. Starkweather being present, and consenting to the terms.” This apparently was not settled by March 1862, since the vestry decided to raise pew rents at that time in order to generate money for “. . . procuring suitable arrangements for warming the church and for improving the grounds around the church.” Money would continue to be a problem for the church, no doubt exacerbated by the start of the Civil War.<sup>5</sup>

Finishing details of the church were being addressed in October 1860, with several women at the church being “. . . requested to select the carpeting for the church and also the materials for the cushions to the pews, to be [illegible] or not by the pewholders at their option.” Later that month “it was resolved that carpeting be purchased for the space in front of the altar, and cocoa matting for the aisles and galleries.” The church was consecrated in late November, and the minutes contain no further discussion about the construction; this suggests that everything was complete, though, as the issue with the heating above indicates, there were still problems with the building. One of these was the failure to pay a Mr. Wilson, who sued the vestry in 1862 and won a judgment against them. The nature of his work is not known at this time.<sup>6</sup>

Building activity at St. John’s took a hiatus until 1871, when the church accepted the gift of 1 ½ acres of ground adjoining their property, from Sallie Eliza Dorsey, the owner of another Starkwether-designed house, “El Monte.” The land was to be used as a graveyard and was the start of St. John’s Cemetery (HO-397). In 1904 the cemetery became a separate entity from the church and continues today, much enlarged, in the same location.<sup>7</sup>

In 1874 two recurring issues for the church raised their heads again. The rector made a motion to have the organ moved from the gallery “to the room by the side of the chancel.” The reason for moving it to the gallery in the first place was never stated, but seems to have been to keep the church floor more open; this possibility must have become apparent once the interior was sufficiently complete for the placement of the organ to be considered. The motives for the attempted move of the organ back to the floor of the church were apparently racial. Though the motion was rejected, it was determined to build a partition in the gallery that would separate the choir from the seats in the eastern part of the gallery, then it was “Resolved that the seats in the eastern end of the gallery be appropriated exclusively to the use of the colored people.” In 1881 the rector again attempted to have the organ moved down to the floor of

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<sup>5</sup> Vestry Minutes, pp. 47- 48, 53.

<sup>6</sup> Vestry Minutes, pp. 50- 51. *Baltimore Sun*, 26 November 1860, p. 2, col. 3. Vestry Minutes, p. 53.

<sup>7</sup> Vestry Minutes, p. 60. Hewett, “Chapel of Ease,” p. 6.

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# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-26

Name  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 4

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the church, this time adjacent to the chancel. This again failed, but it was decided to set aside the gallery only for the choir, because of “unruly” people who were sitting there. The organ was replaced in 1957 and again in 1983, but remains in the gallery.<sup>8</sup>

Also in 1874, a motion was carried “that a portable furnace be placed in the cellar to furnish heat to the present registers, one in the vestibule and one in the centre aisle.” Central heating developed in the second quarter of the nineteenth century primarily to deal with large spaces such as churches, and was meant to eliminate the use of stoves, with their attendant stove pipes that typically cut across the sanctuary space and vented whatever smoke did not escape into the church, out a window. St. John’s learned that these early furnaces were either not necessarily any more effective, or did not have longevity.<sup>9</sup>

The church was illustrated in the border of the 1860 Martenet *Map of Howard County*, and the front of the building, at least, is today substantially as it was pictured then. The date of the illustration is such that it could have been engraved based on Starkweather’s projected design, in which case it would not reflect any changes made during construction. Alternatively, it could have been made after the walls were up, and thus could indicate the design after its evolution. This is important because the southwest tower, based on the illustration in 1860, did not contain a wooden belfry on top of it. The belfry was presumably in the larger stone tower at the southeast corner, since it contains large lucarnes with louvers in them, and these are typically used to allow the sound from a bell escape while keeping out the weather. If the bell was intended to be located here, it raises the question of the function of the smaller tower, other than to strengthen that corner of the church, both visually and structurally. Since the church was to be heated, the tower could have functioned as a chimney, but in 1879 the sexton was authorized by the vestry to take down the rear chimney of the church. It seems unlikely that it would have had two chimneys, unless the vestry originally anticipated using stoves and wanted to reduce the amount of unsightly piping. The switch to central heating would have eliminated the need for more than one chimney. In 1884 the vestry was discussing repairs to the tower, and a decision was not made until June 1885. The work was not described, but was to be done by the day. This was probably because no one was certain just what it would take to repair the damage. Elva Hewett has noted that the stone spire was to be 89 feet tall, but was reduced to 83 feet because of the weight. The source of this information is not known, but, as Mrs. Hewett noted, solid stone spires were uncommon in the United States, and undoubtedly there were few builders or architects with a sound knowledge of their structure and problems. One example, however, is the much larger stone spire on Starkweather’s First Presbyterian

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<sup>8</sup> Vestry Minutes, pp. 73, 118, 120. Hewett, “Chapel of Ease,” pp. 12, 57.

<sup>9</sup> Vestry Minutes, p. 73.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-26

Name  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 5

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Church. The existing belfry on St. John's must have been built in 1886, after the vestry approved Miss Maria Dorsey's proposal for a bell at the church. Along with her letter was "... submitted a design of the proposed erection." This could have been in response to the problems and repairs of the tower. Certainly, a large, heavy swinging bell creates a lot of stress on a structure, and one solution would be to remove the bell. At this time there is insufficient information to do more than speculate about these curiosities.<sup>10</sup>

The years 1877 and 1878 saw additional changes to the building, though the nature of many of these is not known. In April 1877 the vestry appointed a committee to determine the cost of "certain repairs and alterations to the church building, with authority to consult an architect, who shall estimate the costs of such repairs and alterations in detail." The vestry determined to close the church during the work. In September 1878 the vestry thanked Mr. Mackubin for the improvement he made to the church "... by placing in the chancel so beautiful a memorial window, to the memory of Col. Charles W. and Mrs. Mary Tolly Dorsey." The vestry also noted that: "The sexton having placed the window formerly the chancel window, in the opposite end of the church, to take the place of the window in the gallery," they resolved to keep it there. Other memorial windows were installed: the first was actually in 1873, to Judge Thomas B. Dorsey; in 1880 by Reuben M. Dorsey to his father and mother; and in 1883 to Thomas W. Ligon, by his widow.<sup>11</sup>

Finally, in 1886 Mrs. Thomas H. Gaither offered to give a new gateway along the turnpike, at the entrance to the church, and the vestry approved this improvement; this is presumably the existing stone walls with iron gates. The lectern, with a walnut base and a bronze eagle, was donated in 1900 in memory of Mrs. T. W. Ligon.<sup>12</sup>

Discussion of building a new rectory had occurred from as early as 1941, but was postponed until 1948. Baltimore architect T. Worth Jamison, Jr. was hired to design the stone building, and it was built by Charles B. Lovell & Co. for \$47,095. Before the rectory was completed the church began raising money to construct the parish house. Jamison & Marks were hired to design the building, which was constructed by the Harry A. Hudgins Co. for \$87,985 in 1951. Studies to enlarge the church were undertaken in 1968 by the Baltimore architectural firm of Cochran, Stevenson and Donkervoet. They found that the north wall was a temporary one, presumably built with the intention that the church would

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<sup>10</sup> Vestry Minutes, p. 73. Simon J. Martenet, *Martenet's Map of Howard County, Maryland* (Baltimore, 1860). Hewett, "Chapel of Ease," p. 5. Vestry Minutes, p. 135.

<sup>11</sup> Vestry Minutes, pp. 80, 86-87, 91, 112-13, 123, 128.

<sup>12</sup> Vestry Minutes, p. 141. Hewett, "Chapel of Ease," p. 9.

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. HO-26

Name  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 6

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need to be expanded at some time, so this wall was taken down and the building extended 43 feet. The church was renovated at this time, including enlarging the vestibule and the gallery above by doubling their depth. This work was completed in 1974. The construction of additional buildings for church use has continued on the site since that time.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Hewett, "Chapel of Ease," pp. 10-11, 15-16.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. HO-26

See footnotes

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 22.6 A  
Acreage of historical setting 22.6 A  
Quadrangle name Ellicott City Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries consist of the property lines for tax map 24 parcel 535, which encompasses all of the historic features on the site.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	Ken Short		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	August 2012
street & number	3430 Courthouse Drive	telephone	410-313-4335
city or town	Ellicott City	state	MD

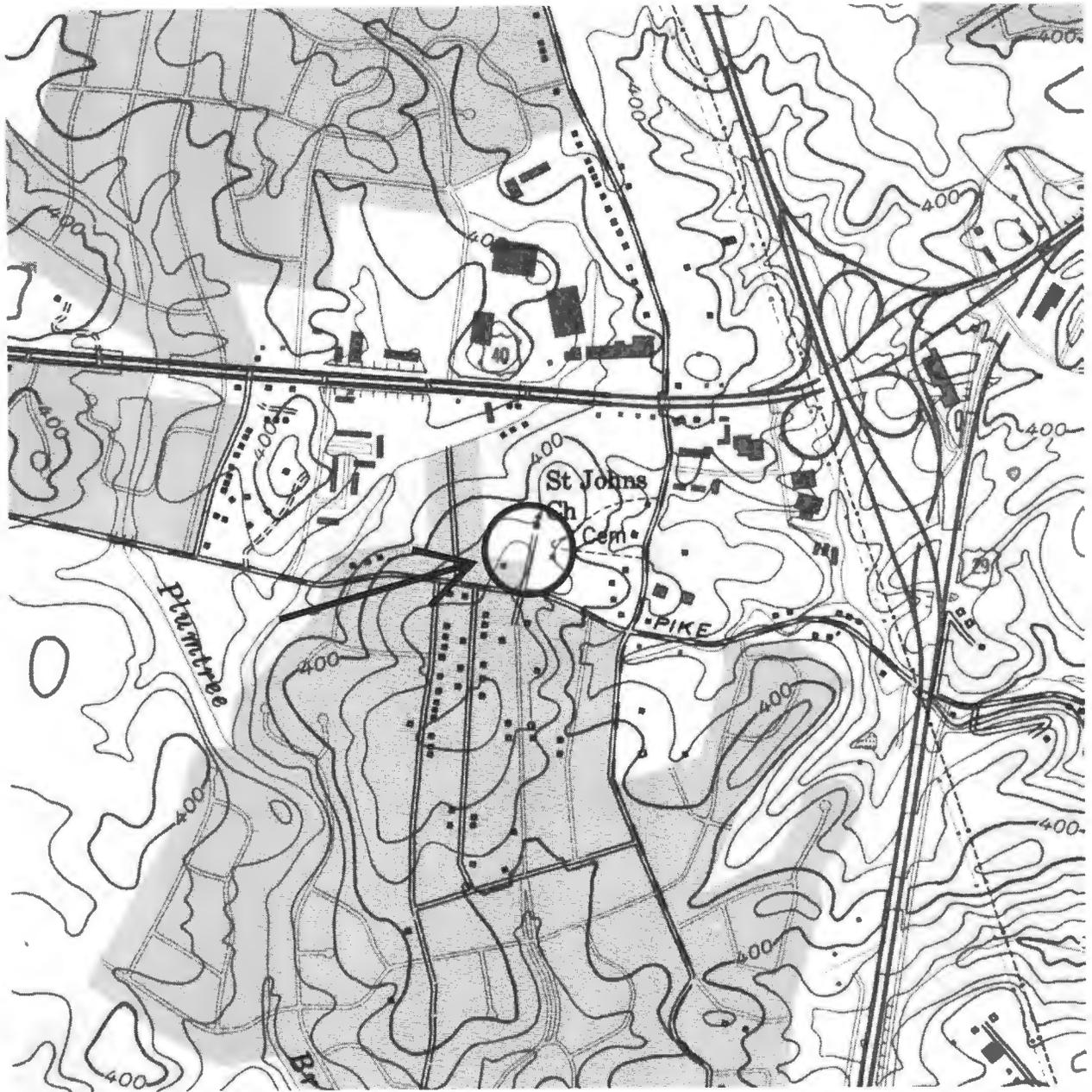
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



HO-26  
St. John's Episcopal Church  
9140 Frederick Road  
Site Plan



HO-26  
St. John's Episcopal Church  
9140 Frederick Road  
Ellicott City quad

HO-26  
St. John's Episcopal Church  
9130 Frederick Road  
Howard County, Maryland  
Ken Short, photographer

Photo Log

Nikon D-70 camera  
Epson Premium paper  
Epson Photo Black UltraChrome ink cartridge

HO-0026\_2011-02-18\_01  
View of gate and church from south

HO-0026\_2011-02-18\_09  
Church, interior, ceiling

HO-0026\_2011-02-18\_02  
Gate, east half from south

HO-0026\_2011-02-18\_10  
Church, interior, altar rail detail

HO-0026\_2011-02-18\_03  
Church, south elevation

HO-0026\_2011-02-18\_11  
Church, interior, pulpit

HO-0026\_2011-02-18\_04  
Church, west elevation

HO-0026\_2011-02-18\_12  
Church, interior, lectern

HO-0026\_2011-02-18\_05  
Church, east elevation

HO-0026\_2011-02-18\_13  
Rectory, west & south elevations

HO-0026\_2011-02-18\_06  
Church, interior, west elevation

HO-0026\_2012-08-23\_01  
Parish House, south & east elevations

HO-0026\_2011-02-18\_07  
Church, interior, bracket

HO-0026\_2011-02-18\_08  
Church, interior, view south



HO-26

St. John's Episcopal Church

9130 Frederick Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2011-02-18

MTD SHPO

View of gate and church from south

1 of 13



HO-26

St. John's Episcopal Church

9130 Frederick Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2011-02-18

MD SHPO

Gate, east half from south

2 of 13



HO-26

St. John's Episcopal Church

9130 Frederick Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2011-02-18

MD SHPO

Church, south elevation

3 of 13



HO-26

St. John's Episcopal Church

9130 Frederick Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2011-02-18

MD SHPO

Church, west elevation

4 of 13



HO-26

St. John's Episcopal Church

9130 Frederick Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2011-02-18

MD SHPO

Church, east elevation

5 of 13



HD-26

St. John's Episcopal Church

9130 Frederick Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2011-02-18

MD SHPO

Church, interior, west elevation

6 of 13



HO-26

St. John's Episcopal Church

9130 Frederick Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2011-02-18

MD SHPO

Church, interior, bracket

7 of 13



HO-26

St. John's Episcopal Church  
9130 Frederick Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2011-02-18

MD SHPO

Church, interior, view south

8 of 13



HO-26

St. John's Episcopal Church

9130 Frederick Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2011-02-18

MD SHPO

Church, interior, ceiling

9 of 13



HO-26

St. John's Episcopal Church

9130 Frederick Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2011-02-18

MD SHPO

Church, interior, altar rail detail

10 of 13



HO-26

St. John's Episcopal Church

9130 Frederick Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2011-02-18

MD SHPO

Church, interior, pulpit

11 of 13



HO-26

St. John's Episcopal Church

9130 Frederick Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2011-02-18

MD SHPO

Church, interior, lectern

12 of 13



HO-26

St. John's Episcopal Church

9130 Frederick Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2011-02-18

MD SHPO

Rectory, west + south elevations

13 of 13



HO-26

St. John's Episcopal Church

9130 Frederick Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2012-08-23

MD SHPO

Parish House, south & east elevations

1 of 1

ST. JOHN'S  
ELLCOTT CITY  
Private

A Chapel of Ease of Queen Caroline Parish, established in 1728, St. John's was incorporated in 1822 by the Maryland General Assembly. Referred to as "Dorsey's" Heaven, it stands on a tract of land donated by Caleb Dorsey called Three Brothers. St. John's is notable architecturally as one of three works by Nathan G. Starkweather noted architect of the mid-1800's, which are located in Howard County, Maryland. The others are El Monte and Temora, both on the National Register of Historic Places and victorian architectural gems utilizing the central bay second floor tri-partite fenestration found on St. John's front facade.

St. John's is an excellent example of Romanesque architecture (all fenestration is Romanesque) with Gothic elements in the timber vaulting of the nave and the three bay division and central Roman door of the front facade. It exudes the massive strength and solidarily of the Romanesque with its solid stone spire rising eighty-three feet above the ground, decorated with south and east Romanesque windows at its base and Roman fenestration on each of the four sides of the spire. Victorian traces can be found in the scalloped barge boards of the south facade and the scrolled double brackets running along the east and west cornice between each of its nine Roman windows.

Maintained in excellent condition, the original six bay nave was extended to nine in its 1974 restoration, while its dirt floor basement was cleaned out, cemented in and now accommodates a choir room, rest rooms, small kitchen facilities and columbarium.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
 for the  
 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON: St. John's Episcopal Church				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: Frederick Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City				
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Howard	
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
				ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>				
OWNER'S NAME: Vestry of St. John's Church				
STREET AND NUMBER: Frederick Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City			STATE: Maryland	21044
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Hall of Records				
STREET AND NUMBER: Ann Arundel County				
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis			STATE: Maryland	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): p.1067 H.C. also				
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b> A.A.Co. 11/62, 54/79, 166/71, 179/92, 30/534, Tax Map #24				
TITLE OF SURVEY: Howard County Historic Sites Inventory				
DATE OF SURVEY: 1976 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historic Trust				
STREET AND NUMBER: 21 State Circle				
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis			STATE: Maryland	21401

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Uncolored	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. John's Episcopal Church, located on Old Frederick Road west of Ellicott City was established in 1728 as a chapel of ease of Queen Caroline Parish. The present structure, a Romanesque revival building dates from the 1860's and is constructed of blocks of local granite. It has a steeply pitched gable roof, running north south. The south elevation contains a central Romanesque door, surmounted by a vertical tripartite Roman arched window with stone lintels and sills crowned by a rose window within the A formed by the gable roof. Originally three bays wide and six bays long, in 1974 its nave was extended to comprise nine bays, delineated by tall Roman arched windows with fine stone lintels and projecting stone sills. A stone water table rises from the stone foundation. On the south facade a bell tower with open belfry springs out of the west bay with a cross sculptured into its upper south and west walls. A tower topped by a spire whose south wall is decorated with an unmarked shield in half relief projects from the east bay. This tower contained a north entrance and stairs leading to the slave gallery, now enlarged and used as a choir loft. At the apex of the roof on the south is a granite cross.

The roof members are exposed on the interior and resemble the medieval type of construction where molded ribs are brought down into decorative pendants at certain points. There is an entrance hall, a long nave with central and side aisles and a section behind the nave used for clergy and altar guild. A large rose window is located in the middle of the north wall. It represents through symbolism the various aspects of Christ. The stained glass windows on the east wall depict events in the life of Christ with an exceptionally fine tiffany window on the south of the east wall. The stained glass windows on the west depict the lives of the saints with representative figures of hope and faith.

Elements of the gothic style are evidenced in the east and west towers, the central portal surmounted by a rose window and the feeling of height you experience in the nave. The fenestration however, is Wholy Romanesque with the heavy east tower giving much the same feeling as that of St. Germain de Pres in Paris. An example of Romanesque revival with elements of the Gothic, it is the work of Nathan G. Starkwether noted architect of the mid-1800's who designed Victorian buildings such as Temora and El Monte. The exterior trim work along the eaves of the south facade and the open belfry give a trace of Victorian to the south facade. The tripartite window treatment above the south entrance door is utilized both in El Monte and Temora though not totally Romanesque in nature as at St. John's.

A columbarium is located in the basement of the church, which furnishes an out reach to the community. There are six levels of niches with nine niches in each level. The bottom level is six inches above ground and the top row is eye level.

St. John's Church is bounded on the north east by St. John's cemetary which was donated by Miss Sally Dorsey in 1871 and is now operated on a separate basis. In 1949 a new rectory was completed south east of the church. Further south of the rectory is a parish house built in the 1950's which hosted the 1st St. John's Antique Show in 1956. This has become an annual event. An educational building was later built, attaching itself

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. John's ranks with Christ Church in its importance as a religious institution for Howard County, Queen Caroline Parish. An act of incorporation was obtained from the General Assembly, December 1822 to provide for the election of a vestry for St. John's Church. The petitioners for this act had built a church at their own expense, including George Howard and Jacob Hollingsworth.

On Easter Monday, April 4, 1823 a vestry which included Thomas B. Dorsey, Caleb Dorsey of Caleb, Lloyd T. Hammond and Jacob Hollingsworth was elected. There were so many Dorseys who attended St. John's Church it was jestingly referred to as "Dorsey's Heaven". The building was known as the White Church on St. John's Lane. It served as did Christ Church the leaders of Howard County and played an important role in the social life of the 1800's.

The land on which St. John's stands was donated by Caleb Dorsey out of a tract of land called Three Brothers.

The present structure was erected in 1860 and is a good example of the eclecticism in our American architecture of that period. The building integrating Romanesque and gothic elements with a trace of Victorian. The fenestration is purely Romanesque, as well as the heavy east tower with its granite spire. The central door flanked by an east and west tower and the sense of height in the nave are reminiscent of the gothic style while the wood work on the open belfry, the brackets at the eaves and the corbels holding the copper cross in place at the apex of the roof give a flavor of the Victorian. The Rose window of 1974 above the altar was designed and assembled by the Willet Studio of Chestnut Hill, Pa.

In Romanesque architecture there were circular windows; however, it was in the Gothic that the circles were divided by mullions like the spokes of a wheel. This Rose window is a flat rose with symbols of the I am statements of Christ, one in each petal.

The church over its 150 years of ministry has served many of the leaders of Howard County as a gathering place for social affairs as well as religious. In recent years St. John's has opened its doors to residents of the new town of Columbia as well as the old families of Howard County, providing a place for mutual appreciation and understanding.

In the field of Christian Education it has been instrumental in form-

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

HO-26

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Stein, C.F. Origin and History of Howard County, Maryland. Baltimore, 1972.  
 Warfield, J.P. The Founders of AA and Howard Counties, Md. Baltimore, 1967.  
 Christ Church Guilford. "Notes from Vestry minutes". (Unpublished material)

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification: Please see tax map #24  
 8.76 Acres  
 P.1067 Howard County  
 AA Co.  
 Ref 11/62  
 54/79  
 166/71  
 179/92  
 30/534

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Cleora B. Thompson, Archivist		DATE: June, 1976
ORGANIZATION: Howard County Comprehensive Planning		
STREET AND NUMBER: 3450 Court House Drive		
CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City	STATE: Maryland	21043

**12 State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)**

Significance of this property is:  
 National  State  Local

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature

Description continued

NO-26

to the north wall of the parish house, extending north and joining with an eastern wing to create an L plan.

In 1960 property west of the church known as Rose Hill was acquired and in 1974 the residence west of Rose Hill on Old Frederick Road became a part of the St. John's complex.

ulating a Howard County School of Theology as well as providing an excellent nursery school for 3-4 and 5 year olds.





H.O. 26

572A

St John's Church SSE 6/7



HO-26 DIST 2  
ST. JOHN'S CH  
MHT